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Levin, Stabenow Congratulate Holland for Being Recognized as One of America's *Dozen Distinctive Destinations* by the National Trust for Historic Preservation

WASHINGTON – Senators Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., today congratulated the City of Holland for being designated as one of America's *Dozen Distinctive Destinations* by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This annual list recognizes the best preserved and unique communities throughout the United States.

"I had the pleasure of marching in this year's tulip festival parade and have long admired Holland for its historic landmarks, distinctive architecture and warm community," said Levin. "Holland is truly a treasure of Michigan and its residents should be proud to have their city's heritage recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation."

"From the Tulip Time festival to the Dutch Winterfest, Holland offers visitors a wonderful array of cultural activities and family fun," said Senator Stabenow. "I congratulate Holland residents on their city's selection as one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. I hope this important recognition will encourage people to explore Holland as well as other scenic Michigan locations."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation which announced the *Dozen Distinctive Destinations* today, selected specific criteria which each winning city had to meet. More than 50 destinations in 27 states were nominated for their well-managed growth, cultural diversity, commitment to historic preservation, interesting and attractive architecture, activities for families with children, an economic base of locally-owned small businesses, and walkability for residents and visitors. Each city is dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable heritage of their community.

With a population of 35,048, the City of Holland has long been admired for its vibrant community and reminder of its early history. The city was selected in part for their cobblestone downtown and preservation of historic landmarks which have protected Holland's unique heritage. Also noted was the city's museum, which houses an impressive collection that celebrates the early history of the city, and Centennial Park which provides a spot for relaxation and recreation. Holland is home to six million tulips and hosts an annual tulip festival that celebrates Holland's culture.

For more information on the award, please visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org>. For more information on Holland, please visit <http://www.holland.org/>